

EXHIBIT #8
DATE Feb 11th
FILE 301

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF HB 301

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING THAT A PUBLIC MEETING MAY BE CLOSED TO GIVE DIRECTION AND CONVEY INTENT TO PARTIES WHO ARE TO CONDUCT ACTUAL LABOR CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS; AND AMENDING SECTION 2-3-203, MCA."

Madam Chair and members of the committee, my name is Roger Nummerdor and I live in Helena. I have worked as a union carpenter for 10 years and also as manager for 20 years a prior to my retirement. Having seen both sides of the coin, I cannot see why we require public agencies to have an "open to the public" meeting requirement, when public officials are discussing how they are going to negotiate with labor unions.

We sit here today and wonder how our Country and our local governments have gotten in to such deep financial problems. When you let the fox into the hen house, what do you expect to happen? It is time that public agencies are allowed to discuss strategy in closed sessions. Common sense seems to be dead, when a law that requires you to discuss in public what you are going to do, before negotiations begin.

I urge this committee to bring common sense back to Montana law and support HB 301.